



Tempe Today



a community newsletter

volume 25 ~ Issue 3

March 2007



Arts and Entertainment Weekend

With huge events like the Tempe Music Festival and the Tempe Festival of the Arts happening all in one weekend, Mayor Hugh Hallman decided to formally declare March 30 to April 1 as Arts and Entertainment Weekend in Tempe.

This year will be the 30th annual spring Festival of the Arts in Tempe's Mill Avenue District. More than 350 artists have been selected to show their crafts, jewelry, paintings and photography at this free event. Live performers and local musicians will be featured, along with plenty of children's activities. For more information, visit www.tempefestivalofthearts.com.

At the same time, the Tempe Music Festival will be at Tempe Beach Park, with performances from bands like The Fray and O.A.R. Tickets start at \$35 and are available through Ticketmaster. For more information, visit www.tempemusicfestival.com.



Tempe has a vested interest in promoting education

By Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Many years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet." This has never been truer than it is today. Across the country, cities are yearning to get involved in securing a solid education for their students. But cities don't directly educate students. So, exactly how do we make a significant difference in the education of our residents?

Well, in Tempe we are the matchmaker. By bringing together the business community, schools, colleges, universities and the city – through the work of the Council's Education and Technology Advancement Committee – we encourage the creation of partnerships. My focus in chairing the committee is to assist Tempe students in preparing for the future, as well as to aide the growing high-tech, bio-tech and nano-tech businesses in our community.

Building on the successes of our Council's past education committees, Councilmember Barb Carter and I developed an aggressive multi-year work plan. While this isn't a complete list of our assigned tasks, here is what we are actively addressing:

- Assisting in the pursuit of funding from public (state, federal & local) and private sources for the creation and maintenance of an International Baccalaureate program at Tempe High School
- Proposing plans to increase capacity in Kid Zone After School Enrichment Programs
- Facilitating discussions of all educational entities and the city regarding new cooperative buying opportunities to decrease the cost of supplies
- Exploring opportunities for events to support and highlight our incredible high school music programs
- Investigating opportunities with ASU to bring a program to our children that aids in their ability to learn
- Looking for additional funds for Jobs for America's Graduates
- Creating a web-based information clearinghouse for the high-tech, bio-tech and nano-tech businesses that would include opportunities for corporate training, interns and new employee hires through our higher education partners
- Stressing the importance of parents' involvement in early reading by creating a City Council Reading program
- Expanding the new city mentoring program created by Arizona State University and Tempe Community Council to eventually include high school students
- Investigating additional adult basic education programs (ABE) and college entrance programs for those currently in ABE
- Exploring the creation of an East Valley Career/Education Expo
- Researching funding opportunities for drivers education programs

No doubt about it, education in Tempe is highly valued. And we have unique resources readily available for partnerships. After all, we are home to one of the largest public universities in the country and the headquarters for the country's largest community college district. It is no wonder we were recently recognized by America's Promise as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People." Add to the mix a bevy of high-tech businesses with a growing number of bio-tech and nano-tech companies, and we have a recipe for truly living up to our trademark tagline: "Tempe, Arizona...The Smart Place To Be."

But we at City Hall can't do it alone; we need your ideas, input and feedback. I want to hear from you, so please feel free to contact me at 480-350-8819 or onnie_shekerjian@tempe.gov.



Police Officers sworn in at patient's bedside

Police Officers Kyle Gonyer and Joe Drelles recently were sworn in with the Tempe Police Department; however, it was anything but a typical ceremony. Both men were scheduled to graduate from the academy on Jan. 5, and Gonyer's parents flew in from Michigan a few days early to see the ceremony. Gonyer's mother quickly became ill and was checked into Chandler Regional Hospital. Shortly after being admitted, his mother had a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery.

Since Gonyer's mother was unable to attend the graduation ceremony as planned, Chief Tom Ryff offered to swear in both officers at her bedside in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Drelles and Gonyer had become friends during the academy, as both are from Michigan, and they decided to be sworn in together. The ceremony took place Jan. 8. Gonyer's mother is now doing well and is back home in Michigan.

"Kyle's mother and father were very thankful for the unexpected opportunity to view this milestone in their son's life," said James Smith, Policy and Procedure Analyst with the Tempe Police Department. For more information on becoming a Tempe Police Officer, visit www.tempe.gov/policejobs.

National appointments for Tempe Councilmembers

Three Tempe Councilmembers have been appointed to national panels. Vice Mayor Hut Hutson has been appointed to the Finance Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Committee of the National League of Cities, which addresses topics such as national economic policy, labor relations, intergovernmental relations, general financial assistance programs, citizen participation and civil rights.

Councilmember Barb Carter has been appointed to serve as the 2007 Vice Chair of the Leadership Training Council of the National League of Cities. The Leadership Training Council runs the Leadership Training Institute, which plans all training courses, summits and seminars for elected officials nationwide. The largest Leadership Training Seminar to-date happened in April 2006 in Tempe, with hundreds of leaders discussing the topic of affordable and workforce housing.

Councilmember Mark Mitchell has been appointed to serve as the 2007 Vice Chair of the Community and Regional Development Panel for the National League of Cities. This will be Councilmember Mitchell's second, one-year term on the panel. The Community and Regional Development Panel helps officials address topics such as improving local lands, facing affordable housing challenges, handling growth and coordinating regional development strategies.

**Tempe's web site
has a new look!**
www.tempe.gov



Ironman Arizona comes to Tempe

Tempe will host Ironman Arizona for the third year on Sunday, April 15. The event is a test of endurance, strength and drive, as competitors swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and complete a 26.2-mile marathon. Athletes must finish the journey within 17 hours. The race begins at 6:45 a.m. and will conclude by midnight. In 2006, nearly 2,000 participants finished the race in Tempe. To see course information and details, visit www.ironmanarizona.com.

During the event, Priest Road, Price Road or the Loop 101 will be the best ways to get around, as the following roads will be closed from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.:

- Mill Avenue from Third Street to Curry Road
- Rural Road from the Loop 202 to Rio Salado Parkway
- McClintock Drive from McKellips Road to Rio Salado Parkway

There will be limited access on Rio Salado Parkway for eastbound and westbound traffic, and on southbound Rural Road. For information on road closures, call 480-350-5182. Traffic restrictions and detours can be found at www.tempe.gov/traffic/.

Tempe among “100 Best” for youth

Tempe is celebrating its second year as one of the top communities in the nation for young people. America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth has named its selections for the 2007 “100 Best Communities for Young People” and Tempe has won the accolade two years in a row.

Hundreds of communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands applied to win the designation, which honors commitments to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people. Founded in 2005 by General Colin Powell, America’s Promise looks for communities that fulfill the organization’s Five Promises: Caring Adults; Safe Places; Healthy Start; Effective Education; and Opportunities to Help Others.

Tempe won the award, in part, because of the efforts of Tempe/Kyrene Communities In Schools (CIS), a collaboration of the City of Tempe, Tempe school districts and many businesses and nonprofits. CIS has opened nine family resource centers in high-poverty elementary schools, with the aim of supporting parents as they take part in their children’s education.

Other programs and initiatives that helped single out Tempe for this honor include: the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission, which gives young people a voice in local government; the city’s establishment of an adaptive recreation program to serve children with disabilities who wish to participate in Special Olympics; an advisory committee of local businesses that hire special education and at-risk students for after-school jobs; the Tempe Public Library’s new Experience Corps project, which pairs retirees with students for tutoring; and the first community health clinic serving low-income residents.

Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Program

The City of Tempe invites residents to the Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Program on Saturday, April 14, at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. Registration and a continental breakfast will be from 7:30 to 8 a.m. A welcome from Mayor Hugh Hallman and the Chuck Malpede Neighbor of the Year Awards will be from 8-9 a.m. Workshops on a range of topics – from neighborhood safety, building community, growth in the Mill Avenue District, neighborhood traffic, code compliance, and nuisances such as roof rats, feral cats and mosquitoes – will be from 9:15 a.m. to about 12:30 p.m. For more information, to register or to obtain a Neighbor of the Year Award application, visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods, e-mail neighborhoods@tempe.gov or call 480-350-8234.



Mayor Elmer Bradley

Former Tempe Mayor Elmer Bradley made his mark on

the city and the valley during a lifetime filled with family, church, work and service. The 76-year-old father of three passed away Jan. 24 and is remembered for his many contributions to Tempe.

Bradley served as Mayor of Tempe from 1968 to 1970, and was part of the City Council during the construction of the current City Hall building on Fifth Street and the Tempe Public Library complex at Rural Road and Southern Avenue. He counted the two projects as among his greatest contributions while in office.

Born in Phoenix, Bradley grew up in the Valley and left for college in California and Washington. Returning to Phoenix nine years later, he spent time working in construction with his father. He began Elmer Bradley Construction in 1957, working on residential and commercial projects, and once estimated that he had built as many as 1,800 homes in Tempe.

There were 12,000 people in Tempe when he came to the city in 1957 and about 70,000 when he left office in 1970.

“My vision of Tempe was not simply a bedroom community,” Bradley said. “But I felt it was a place where the university was a central thing in the community and, with its growth...we had the beginnings of a really fine community.”

Ultimately, Bradley said, the hard work of many people over the decades has truly distinguished Tempe.

“I do think this city is one of the finest in America,” he said.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The March/April schedule
for Tempe City Council meetings

March 1

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

March 22

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

April 5

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

April 19

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11
and the Internet at
www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in
the Council Chambers at City Hall,
31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted
24 hours before each meeting outside
the Council Chambers and on the
second floor of City Hall. Meetings are
subject to change. Confirm dates and
times with the City Clerk's Office,
480-350-8241 or on the Web site at
www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor

Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember

Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember

Shana Ellis, Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Will Manley, City Manager

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City of Tempe
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www.tempe.gov

News you can use

2007 Rotary River Rally and Cardboard Boat Regatta

The 8th Annual Rotary River Rally, featuring The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta, will be Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, at Tempe Town Lake. Each year, about 100 boats – made of corrugated cardboard, paint and glue – are entered from schools around the Valley. Teams win awards for best design, most team spirit and best costumes – an award is even given for the most spectacular sinking! Thousands of spectators join the fun and cheer on the teams. For more information, visit www.rotaryriverrally.com.

Live Well series at Pyle Center

Tempe St. Luke's Hospital and the Pyle Adult Recreation Center have teamed up to offer the Live Well Health Series, featuring information from physicians, registered dietitians, pharmacists and exercise physiologists. Each session includes a presentation by a health professional with time for questions. The sessions may also include screenings such as blood pressure, body fat or foot health. The ongoing free series takes place the third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Pyle Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. Registration is required – call 480-350-5211.

Tempe Bike Week rolls in April 14-22

The City of Tempe Transportation Division, Tempe in Motion, will hold its 16th annual Bike Week April 14-22 to encourage people to use bikes as an alternative mode of transportation. Tempe Bike Week activities include the T.I.M. Triathlon, Bike to Work and School Day and Tempe Community Bike Ride. T.I.M. Triathlon is set for April 14 at 8 a.m. and Bike to Work and School Day is set for April 18 from 6-8 a.m. All riders will receive free breakfast snacks and the first 325 riders will receive free T-shirts at the breakfast locations. Call 480-350-2775 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim for a list of participating breakfast locations, stores offering discounted bicycle tune-ups during Bike Week or information about the Community Bike Ride and T.I.M. triathlon.

Movies in the Park

Laugh with your family under the stars as the City of Tempe's free Movies in the Park begins its spring series at Kiwanis Park every Friday evening between April 6 and May 25. A large inflatable screen shows family-friendly movies beginning at dusk (approximately 7 p.m.) at Kiwanis Park, 6005 S. All-America Way, near the fire pit on the west side of Kiwanis Lake. The series kicks off April 6 with a showing of the PG-rated cartoon "Barney." For more information and a list of movies, contact Carmen Sanchez at 480-350-5216 or visit www.tempe.gov/recreation

Tax prep program helps families

Free tax preparation is available for qualified individuals and couples every Saturday through April 14 (except March 17) from 9 a.m. to noon at Tempe Schools Credit Union, 2800 S. Mill Ave. Trained volunteer tax preparers certified by the IRS will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing for individuals earning \$33,000 or less per year and couples making \$55,000 or less per year. Spanish translators will be available. With electronic filing, taxpayers can expect refunds within 10-14 working days. For more information and a list of documents to bring with you, visit www.tempe.gov/tcc/eitc.htm.

Fundraising golf tournament

Tempe High School has scheduled the first in a series of fundraising events for the school's 100th anniversary celebration. On April 28, the Tempe Buffalo Classic Golf Tournament will be held at the Legacy Golf Course in Phoenix. The cost is \$150 per player and all proceeds will go toward expenses for the year-long anniversary celebration. There will be prizes for the top golfers, a silent auction and entertainment during the tournament for non-playing guests. For more information please contact rtrujillo.ths@tuhsd.k12.az.us or contact Richard Trujillo at 480-967-1661.